

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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NORTON SOUND KING CRAB SUMMER COMMERCIAL FISHERY UPDATE

The Norton Sound red king crab summer commercial fishery including CDQ opened July 3, 2013. To date, 33 out of the registered 36 vessels have made at least one delivery. Total reported harvest through the morning of August 28 is approximately 282,000 pounds, including CDQ. The remaining CDQ quota is 23,949 pounds and the remaining open access quota is approximately 190,000 pounds. Based on the current catch rate, the guideline harvest level is not expected to be reached this year.

To provide additional harvest opportunity on the remaining quota, the department plans to extend the fishery until September 10 unless there are indications crab are molting. In 2009, during a similar temperature regime to this current year, molting crab began appearing in the harvest during mid-September. Therefore, the fishery may be able to extend for an additional week without harvesting appreciable quantities of molting crab. As September 10 approaches, the department will re-evaluate and determine if a further extension is warranted based on fishing conditions and condition of crab harvests.

Currently, several buyers are interested in purchasing crab beyond September 3. All crabbers are urged to make sure they have a buyer before continuing fishing operations after September 3.

For any questions regarding fishing please call Fish & Game in Nome at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Good Luck and Good Crabbing.